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SATURDAY
JUNE 19, 1954

I came back to town today and went over with Tommy some of the recent developments, including receipt of a confidential letter to me from Doc Matthews which explained that Beyen was wobbly on the Spaak plan.

We dined tonight with the Windsors in the house they have taken for 25 years in the Bois de Boulogne. It has been extensively and elaborately done over. I sat between Wallis and the young Marquise de Portago. It was Wallis's birthday, and I was called upon to make a speech appropriate to the occasion. I am afraid I devoted the major part of it to her uncle, Sol Warfield, who, when I was a young man, had the best cook and wine cellar in Baltimore, the best duck shooting, ran Maryland politics from behind an iron curtain, and presided -- probably not too efficiently -- over the destinies of the Seaboard Airline Railway. Although there were several great French Bordeaux proprietors at the dinner, including Douglas Dillon and a couple of Rothschilds, I vaunted the great superiority of Mr. Warfield's Madeiras over any other wines before or since, and gave them, I hope, a not inapt description of the ceremony of drinking Madeira as it was practised in Baltimore, with decanters flying around the table and the guests munching dry pieces of bread in between their potations. A few singers entertained us during the evening and a good time was had, certainly by myself, except for the lateness of the hour when I finally went to bed. This house had some years ago been occupied by General de Gaulle, and has beautiful grounds.

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